

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /104 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF:LBUTCHER :MAM

APPROVED BY EB/ORF/FSE:GBENNSKY

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EUR/WE:GSHEINBAUM (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

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E.O.:N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJECT: "IN TRANSIT" OIL

DELIVER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ UPON ARRIVAL

1. ALBERT BEVERIDGE AND JOHN ZENTAY OF GINSBURG, FELDMAN, AND BRESS CALLED DEPARTMENT DEC. 14 TO ADVISE US OF POSSIBLE PROBLEM INVOLVING "IN TRANSIT" OIL OWNED BY NORTHEAST PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED OF BOSTON BUT STORED IN ROTTERDAM. COMPANY HAS RECEIVED REPORT THAT ECONOMIC MINISTRY OF THE NETHERLANDS IS PREPARING LEGAL POSITION PAPER TO SUPPORT DUTCH EMBARGO ON TRANSSHIPMENT OF ALL "IN TRANSIT" OIL NOT DESTINED FOR OTHER EC COUNTRIES. NPI HAD PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT THAT DUTCH WOULD HAVE TO SEEK SPECIAL LEGISLATION TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE.

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2. BEVERIDGE AND ZENTAY STATED THAT NPI ALONE OWNS 2

MILLION BARRELS OF NO. 2 FUEL OIL STORED IN FREE TRADE ZONE
IN ROTTERDAM (OIL HAS NOT ENTERED DUTCH CUSTOMS) AND THAT
2 OR 3 OTHER U.S. COMPANIES ARE IN SIMILAR POSITION,
ALTHOUGH QUANTITY OF OIL INVOLVED UNKNOWN. NPI OIL WAS
REFINED IN ITALY AND IS DESTINED FOR USE IN NEW ENGLAND.
NPI PURCHASED OIL FROM ILFORD TRADING CO., ITS OVERSEAS
AFFILIATE INCORPORATED IN BAHAMAS.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS NO BASIS FOR JUDGEMENT ON LIKELIHOOD
OF THIS REPORTEDLY CONTEMPLATED DUTCH ACTION NOR ON
LEGITIMACY OF THIS ACTION IF UNDERTAKEN. BEVERIDGE AND
ZENTAY ASKED IF THIS WOULD BE A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION
DURING DONALDSON/KATZ VISIT TO NETHERLANDS. WE REPLIED
WE WOULD PASS INFORMATION AS GIVEN BUT COULD NOT SAY
WHETHER MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

4. WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER OR HOW TO BRING
MATTER UP WITH DUTCH. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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